CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES ADVISORY COMMISSION (SCC)
COMMITTEE CONFERENCE ROOM, MILPITAS CITY HALL

MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 2017

I. Call to Order and Roll Call Vice Chair Arefi called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.
Commissioners Present: Arefi, Awasthi, Chang, Strohfus, Tsai.
Commissioners Absent: Grilli. Alternate Commissioner Present: Shapiro.

Council Liaison Anthony Phan: Absent
MHS Student Liaison Dinh: Absent
MUSD Liaison: Absent.
Staff Liaison Leslie Stobbe: Present

II. Alternates Seating of Alternate Commissioner Shapiro was seated.

III. Allegiance Pledge of Vice Chair Arefi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Minutes MOTION to approve the minutes of September 28, 2017.
M / S: Tsai / Strohfus   Ayes: All

V. Agenda MOTION to approve the agenda of October 26, 2017.
M / S: Strohfus / Tsai   Ayes: All

VI. Announcements: None.

VII. Public Forum: None.

VIII. New Business
1. MOTION: To cancel the November 23 and December 21 SCC meetings.
M / S: Tsai / Strohfus   Ayes: All

IX. Old Business

2. **FY 17-18 Work Plan & Council Presentation**
Commission reviewed the final Annual Work Plan and agreed to place tasks for monthly meetings at the January meeting.

3. **Possible Sister City Relationship with a Latin American City**
This item was tabled to the January 2018 meeting.

4. **Possible Sister City Relationship with Indian City**
Commissioner Awasthi is the lead commissioner. He that he has written to the High Commissioner of Bangalore to inquire about possible interest in a sister city relationship. He added that research into other possible cities is ongoing.

5. **Current Ideas in Motion to Promote the Sister Cities Program**
No update was provided. Staff stated this is the venue to involve citizens. Staff is researching a civic volunteer or student intern to assist.

6. **e-Pal Project with Sister Cities**
No update provided.

7. **Tsukuba City, Japan**
Art exchanges between students and Milpitas High School and a high school in Tsukuba are underway. Art from Milpitas students was sent in early October.

8. **Dagupan City, Philippines**
Lead Commissioner Tsai reported that Eduard Duarte, a cousin of the Philippine president, may visit Milpitas in November. He will email the Chair and staff is a visit is planned by Dagupan support organizations. Discussion followed regarding Dagupan visits and problems incurred. Items discussed were the involvement of host families and their commitment; staff diligence in creating a full itinerary; apparent disregard of the itinerary by Dagupan officials and staff; incident leading to the compromise of safety of visiting students. It was noted that host parents expressed dismay and disappointment when students were picked up at the school without prior knowledge. Vice Chair stated it is not acceptable to disregard our protocols and planned itineraries. As part of the consensus, Commissioners agreed that two-way cooperation is needed to maintain communication between the two city staffs and to adhere to agreed-upon itineraries. Guidance for the letter was provided: with a statement the City of Milpitas expects protocols to be followed, and the past visit included serious instances of disregard to this and agreed-upon itineraries, staff was directed to be general, diplomatic, respectful and firm in the language of the letter.

MOTION: To send a letter from Mayor Tran to Mayor Fernandez noting the expected protocols and spirit of the MOU between our cities.

M / S: Arefi / Awasthi   Ayes: All

9. **Huizhou Municipality, China**
No update was provided.

X. **Student Liaison Report** – None

XI. **City Council Liaison Report** – None

XII. **School District Liaison Report** – None

XIII. **Future Agenda Items**
Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchanges
   i. Tsukuba, Japan
   ii. Dagupan, Philippines
   iii. Huizhou, China

XII. Adjournment

No further business was discussed. Chair Grilli requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting.

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting of October 26 to the meeting of January 25, 2018.
M / S: Awasthi / Arefi   Ayes: All